Exh. No.

Translated by Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

- V8 -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

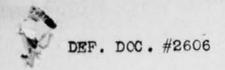
## Sworn Deposition

Deponent ; -- KAGWSA, Sadaaki

Having first duly sworn an oath as on attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country I hereby depose as follows.

- 1. I, KAGFSA, Sadaaki, am an ex-Licutenant-General of the Japanese Army and am now in the First Government Hospital of Tokyo owing to ill-health.
- 2. Immediately after Lieutenant General ITAGAKI's appointment as the Minister of War, in June, 1938, I was transferred from the post of department chief of the General Staff Office to that of chief of the Department of Military Affairs in the Bureau of Military Affairs. Since then, I continued in this office till the end of March, 1939.

  During this period, as a person in authority, I had to do



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with the question of strengthening the Japan-Germany-Italy anti-communist front.

- 3. Not only the Government, but also the Army and the Navy had all been at all times very anxious to effect immediate settlement of the China Incident. Considering it as a sine qua non for the settlement of the incident to nullify the menace of the Soviet Union in the north by extricating Japan from her state of international isolation, the three ministries of war, Navy, and Poreign Affairs had eagerly studied the problem of strengthing the Tripartite anti-Comintern Pact before War Minister ITAGAKI's assumption of office.
- 4. According to my recollection, War Minister ITAGAKI's opinion about foreign policy which he expressed to us when he took office war, on the whole, as below:
  - 1) To concentrate every possible endeavour on bringing about the peace with China without a moment's delay and to make this the foundation of our policy.
  - 2) To maintain a state of silence in regard to the Soviet Union, to keep strict guard against having any trouble with her, and at the same time, to watch closely her positive actions.
  - 3) To strengthen friendship with Germany and Italy, and make use of item for alleviating thr threat of the

Soviet Union. At the same time, to let these powers take part in the co-operation for realizing the immediate settlement of the China Incident.

- 4. Attempts were to be made to let Britain, the United States, and other countries understand Japan's real intention, and thus let them restrain their acts of aiding the Ruomintang Government, thereby contributing to the settlement of the incident.
- communist Pact all originated from the above-mentioned principle and there was absolutely no other intention involved. Therefore, when the German Foreign Minister made a suggestion in August, 1838, the government reaplied, according to the decision of the Five Ministers:

  Conference, that the pact should amount to an extension of the anti-Comintern Pact. Thermore, when Germany in November of the same year attempted to make the meaning of "the objective power" coader the government, in accordance with the decision of Five Ministers:

  conference replied as follows:
  - 1) We will regard the Soviet Union as the main objective power.
  - 2) If the situation demands it, Britain, France, and others may be made objective powers. However, whether any

military assistance should be given or not all depends upon the situation.

Thus, while making every effort not to hinder co-operation with Germany and Italy, we, on the other hand, had been exerting ourselves to avoid making Britain, France, and others objective powers. Especially, we had been firmly maintaining the attitude of avoiding military assistance to the utmost.

Moreover, it was quite apparent that, apart from the worst eventuality in which we would have to make Britain, France, etc. objectives, even if we had to make the Soviet our object, this pact was a pure defensive mutual-aid pact against any kind of invasion and aid not contain even the slightest hint of positive aggression. After all, the only object of this pact was to make the pact itself serve in the settlement of the Chine Inc.dent.

On th's 29 day of <u>Sep.</u>, 1947

## DEPONENT /S/ KAGESA, Sadaaki (seal)

I, YAMADA, Hanzo, hereby certify that the above statement was swoin by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

DEF. DCC. #2606

On the same date

At \_\_\_\_

Witness: /S/ YAMADA, Hanzo (seal)

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

/S/ KAGESA, Sadaaki (seal)

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